

CHALLENGE



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DON'T VOTE SMASH IMPERIALISM

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OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

★Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

RULERS BET DRAFT CAN SAVE GENOCIDAL EMPIRE

"Less than 1% of Americans are willing and able to serve."
—U.S. Major General Jeffrey Snow, the U.S. Army's top recruiting boss (The Economist, 10/24/15).

The U.S. capitalist rulers are worried. U.S. imperialism still dominates the world, over the rival gangs of bosses ruling Russia and China. But in a relative sense, U.S. power is declining. The bosses see their options narrowing. To preserve their empire in the next big ground war, they know they'll need to draft masses of U.S. workers to slaughter and be slaughtered. They'll need workers to sacrifice their lives for the capitalists' narrow interests.

On October 24, The Economist, a British magazine owned by the pro-U.S. Rothschild and Agnelli (Fiat-Chrysler) families, published "Who Will Fight the Next War?"

[T]he civil-military disconnect... concerns America's future ability to mobilise for war...when the army next needs to surge, it will be for a war much bloodier than the recent ones.....America may be unable, within reasonable cost limits and without reinstituting the draft, to raise the much bigger army it might need for such wars.

U.S. Bosses in Disarray

The dominant, imperialist, finance capital wing of U.S. capitalism inevitably needs to confront its enemies with armed force. Russian and U.S. imperialists are already indirectly fighting one another by financing and arming warring factions in Syria's bloody civil conflict. Top U.S. strategists see Syria, with its strategic location in the oil-rich Middle East, as just one of many hotspots bringing direct conflict closer. Neither the U.S. nor Russia can afford to cede control over that critical region without a fight.

But as it stands today, two obstacles block the U.S. bosses from fielding 500,000 troops anywhere. The first consists of U.S. capitalists at odds with the dominant, finance capital wing. The domestically oriented Koch brothers, lacking trillions of U.S. dollars invested in the Middle East, do not share the finance capital wing's imperialist vision or needs. Koch-organized funding, amounting to \$889 million (New York Times, 1/26/15), will play a major role in choosing the Republican Party's presidential candidate for the 2016 election.

The influential Brookings Institution is an organization that helps formulate U.S. imperialist policy. It gets most of its

funding from JPMorgan Chase, the Rockefeller Foundation, the U.S. government, and the government of Qatar, home to the U.S. Air Force's main base in the Middle East. Brookings recently released a book titled The Future of Land War, the first installment in a series called "Order from Chaos." Designed to guide presidential candidates as well as their capitalist backers, Land War explores the most likely flashpoints for clashes between major imperialist powers—the 21st-century Pearl Harbors. One is "a major [war] in the Middle East, perhaps in Syria." Another is "a Russian invasion threat to the Baltic [countries]."

The history of fascist movements in Nazi Germany, Japan and Italy, before and during World War II, shows us that capitalist disorganization is temporary. As the global stakes become higher for the U.S. bosses, sooner or later the dominant finance capitalists will use their state power either to force their rivals to play along or to cut them out completely. One early sign of this development is the bosses' recruitment of Paul Ryan as Speaker of the House of Representatives. His job is to keep the imperialist machinery running smoothly and bring the Tea Party right-wingers to heel.

The Bosses Need the Working Class...

But the bigger obstacle by far for the U.S. bosses is mass working-class opposition to imperialist war. This healthy attitude stems in part from the vast, militant, anti-Vietnam war movement of the 1960s and 1970s, when the working class in Vietnam and large sections of students and workers in the U.S., led by Black workers, actively fought back.

The revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party played the most politically significant role in this struggle. We led strikes and protests in factories and on campuses attacking U.S. war-makers. We exposed the fake "communist" North Vietnamese leaders as just another bunch of capitalists who wrapped themselves in the red flag.

...Workers Don't Need Bosses

PLP fights to build a mass international party of millions that can turn imperialist war into a class war against capitalism and smash this rotten system once and for all. The bosses are right to be worried about a working class armed with revolutionary communist ideas!

During the Vietnam War, instead of encouraging students and workers to avoid the military draft, PLers led rebellions and anti-racist fightback inside the military. From Vietnam to bases across the U.S., PLP organized, joined, or supported anti-racist struggles to help build international working-class consciousness.

Mindful of Vietnam-era mutinies, the Brookings Institute envisions a compulsory U.S. troop building program. Land War proposes "[o]bligatory national service for the nation's youth....[M]ilitary service should be just one option among many, with the armed forces themselves having a major say on whom they would accept."

Fascist Terror Reveals Bosses' Weakness

Amid the current economic misery and racist police terror, it's no wonder that U.S. workers aren't rushing to enlist. As their mad-dog police murder Black youth across the country and millions are permanently unemployed, the bosses can't possibly inspire working-class loyalty. They have only one alternative: the imposition of fascism.

Fascism is capitalism in crisis, the way the bosses rule when they are weak and desperate to keep control. Within the ruling class, it means bringing rivals like the Koch brothers into line—by force, if necessary. For the working class, it means more open state terror.

But this crisis of loyalty can also be an opportunity for communists and class-conscious workers around the world. Capitalism means perpetual imperialist war, with rival powers relying on the working class to do the fighting and dying. Communism, with the leadership of PLP, means arming the international working class with revolutionary ideas. It means fighting for a world without imperialism, capitalism, racism or sexism. We are open to all workers, students and soldiers. Join us!✊



I WANT YOU TO DIE FOR U.S. IMPERIALISM

Kyam Struggle

'I Still Haven't Seen My Daughter's Killer!'

BROOKLYN, October 21 — Members of Progressive Labor Party joined the Committee for Justice for Kyam Livingston in a demonstration marking twenty-seven months since Kyam was killed by medical disregard in a holding cell.

On the 21st of each month, the Committee holds an event to call for the arrest and punishment of all those responsible for Kyam's death. Tonight, family members of others killed by the racist NYPD joined in. Among those remembered was Shantel Davis, a 23-year-old Black woman murdered by racist kkkop Phillip Atkins on June 14, 2012. The unity of these families is an important part of the growing movement against racist police terror. That's why we chant: "Kyam means we've got to fight back! Shantel means we've got to fight back!"

We heard from a mother and a sister who lost a family member to police murder. Black women are leading the fight against racist police terror. Their strength and stamina and fearlessness inspire us all.

Several members of PLP spoke about how all cops serve the interests of the capitalist ruling class. Racism is the bosses' main tool to prevent workers from uniting in our class interest. As part of this plan of divide and conquer, Black, Latin, and immigrant workers face brutal oppression by police on a daily basis, from metal detectors in schools to stop-and-frisk in communities to mass incarceration in U.S. prisons and jails. Murder by cops—whether the weapon is a bullet or the denial of urgent medical care—is all racist terror. From New York to California, from Ayotzinapa, Mexico to Palestine, the bosses cannot and will not provide justice for our class. Their cops are free to kill again and again.

The rulers know they are vastly outnumbered by the working class. They cannot keep exploiting



workers—and super-exploiting Black, Latin, Asian and immigrant workers—without using racist state terror. That's why we chant, "Shut it down, shut it down, shut this racist system down!"

Tonight, when one speaker tried to argue that not all cops are bad, his remarks were swiftly rejected by the crowd. PLP doesn't argue about individual cops; our job is to expose the role cops play in maintaining capitalist class rule. Our duty is to build working-class fightback. As Kyam's mom said, "I still haven't seen my daughter's killer. How do I know which one did it?"

This struggle is a school for learning how to put communist ideas forward, to advance our vision of a world without racism, sexism, or inequality. We are unmasking the killers in blue and the

killers in suits, along with the capitalist system that enables them. Our teachers are the women leading struggles for Kyam, Shantel and so many others.

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to take the struggle for Kyam and Shantel into their schools and workplaces. Share this article with friends and start the discussion about who and what the cops serve. Turn your anger against capitalism into organized fightback. If you are in New York City, come out at noon Saturday, November 21, for the next Kyam demonstration. We will rally at Church Avenue and East 18th Street in Brooklyn.✪

Israel

Apartheid State, Workers' Resistance

TEL-AVIV, October 27 — The working class in Israel-Palestine is once again in open rebellion against the racist Israeli apartheid regime. Workers in the West Bank and Gaza have been unleashing fury at the escalating racist oppression here. Some respond with stabbing attacks on Israeli citizens—or, more often, on Israeli soldiers. The Israeli bosses are seizing this opportunity to brutally repress Arab and Muslim workers—a repression that enables the capitalists to further exploit all workers, including Jewish workers.

Out of Oppression, Resistance

Now Israeli cops have a ready-made excuse to shoot Arab and Muslim workers in cold blood, by claiming afterward "they had knives." On October 18, at the Beersheba central bus station, a racist mob beat to death a Black refugee from Eritrea after the cops had shot the innocent man, claiming they thought he was a terrorist. The divisive, racist double standards of the police are more apparent every day. Last summer, a violent homophobe named Yishai Slisel murdered a woman in the Jerusalem Pride Parade. The cops arrested him without resorting to live fire, just as they have in recent criminal stabbings where the perpetrators were Israeli Jews. But Arab, Muslim and African immigrant workers are simply murdered in cold blood.

Israel is a crucial tool of U.S. imperialism to help control oil wealth in the Middle East. To solidify this role, the Israeli bosses use extreme repression to divide and control the working class.

For example, while religious Jews can go to both the Wailing Wall and the Temple Mount, Muslim entry into the Temple Mount is restricted by age and sometimes completely forbidden. Racist pro-Israeli groups threaten to destroy the Al-Aqsa mosque. Arab and Muslim workers in the West Bank have their movements restricted by checkpoints and roadblocks, and their lands stolen by settlers. Since the West Bank is exempt from Israeli labor laws, many Arab and Muslim workers, including children, work for starvation wages in the settlements. In Gaza, both Israel and Egypt besiege the population, creating starvation and mass unemployment.

Transform Resistance to Revolution

This is not the first mass revolt. In the 1980s, Palestinian workers rose against the Zionist apartheid regime in the first Intifada. Fifteen years ago, they rose again against the regime once it became obvious that the Oslo "peace" treaty was garbage. In October 2000, Israeli cops murdered thirteen unarmed Arab demonstrators. After a subsequent government investigation let the killer cops off, there were years of mass butcherings of Arab and Muslim workers by Israeli "Defense" Force (IDF) stormtroopers in the West Bank and Gaza.

The vacuum left by the collapse of the old international communist movement allowed murderous Islamist movements like Hamas to rise to prominence. Hamas receives political support from the Russian and Chinese bosses. The fascist

Israeli regime tries to paint the current uprising as a "religious insurrection," and to link it to terrorists like ISIS. The wave of stabbing attacks is a pretext to launch a racist wave of nationalism among Jewish workers. Zionism promises Jewish workers nothing but endless war for the sake of the bosses' profits. Meanwhile, the Palestinian bosses try to exploit the Arab and Muslim workers' anger while making dirty backroom deals with the Israeli fascists they pretend to be fighting. Whatever new "peace" settlement they cook up could eventually lead to a separate capitalist state of Palestine, or to a single capitalist state that encompasses both Israel and Palestine. Either way, the working classes loses.

Workers need to ask themselves: Do we want two states ruled by rival gangs of bosses? Or should working-class Arab, Muslim, Jewish, immigrant and all other workers join the Progressive Labor Party and fight for a world without racism and capitalism? The only answer is to fight against fascism and build a mass PLP in Israel-Palestine! We must fight toward the only way forward for our class: communist revolution.

As long as the Zionist occupation continues, no worker in Israel-Palestine can be free. Workers only need one communist workers' state—from the River to the Sea!✪

CUNY Students, Faculty Solidarity with Marikana

NEW YORK CITY, October 16—Seventy five professors, students from CUNY, and workers from other unions were recently organized by the Progressive Labor Party and the International Committee of the Professional Staff Congress to see the documentary film, *Miners Shot Down*. It is a gripping depiction of the slaughter of 34 striking platinum miners on August 16, 2012 at Marikana, South Africa. We were fortunate to have the film’s director and activist, Rehad Desai, answer questions and describe the many current struggles of workers there.

As poverty and inequality grow in South Africa, workers are rapidly moving to the left, opposing the ANC government, and debating how to end capitalism. PLers pointed out that miners in Mexico and other countries are fighting against what’s shown in the film: company officials working hand-in-hand with the repressive apparatus of the capitalist state to stop workers fighting for a living wage. Militant strikes are powerful and necessary, and the Marikana miners set the example for workers around the world by fighting back with machetes and spears. But as long as the capitalists maintain state power, there will be more disappearances like Aytozinapa, more massacres like Marikana, and more Black Lung disease for the miners who live long enough to retire (see letter on page 6). What’s missing right now is a revolutionary party. Without a revolutionary communist party the workers will continue to struggle but also continue to suffer, never obtaining what they need – a society where they share the fruits of their labor and decide their own futures.

People who came to the event contributed money towards the work of the Marikana Support Committee, which continues to demand reparations for the families of those killed and that those responsible pay for their crimes. Audience members asked tough questions—such as “How did the African National Congress,

which fought hard against apartheid, come to betray the workers in South Africa?” Part of the answer to that question is that the African National Congress was led by the South African Communist Party, which fought for reforms. While SACP members displayed tremendous courage and dedication in the struggle against apartheid, they did not have a revolutionary program.

When the ANC came to power in 1994, they were now in charge of running a capitalist economy. The need to maintain corporate profitability outweighed other considerations, and the government was soon acting on behalf of the business class, which meant imposing austerity and suppressing workers strikes, as in Marikana. Moreover, some of the ANC leaders — like Cyril Ramaphosa, the former leader of the National Miners Union—were given high-ranking corporate positions and became very wealthy. Ramaphosa is personally worth \$675 million, and sits on the board of directors of Lonmin—the very company the miners at Marikana were striking against! Lonmin, one of the world’s largest platinum companies, worked closely with the police who murdered the 34 workers, many shot in the back while fleeing.

Less than two years later, 70,000 mine workers shut down all three SA platinum companies for five months, until the company agreed to pay salary increases (though less than the 12,500 rand the workers were demanding as a minimum salary). In 2013, hundreds of thousands of workers in auto, construction, airport and other industries shut down their workplaces. The working class in South Africa has refused to be cowed. Someday they will take power and build an egalitarian communist society, inspiring and aiding workers in all of Africa — and the rest of the world — to do the same.☺

Campus Worker-Student Alliance Needed

On October 6, professors, students and campus workers at the Universities of Johannesburg, Witwatersrand and Cape Town held demonstrations demanding no outsourcing of work to private contractors, which has cost many their jobs and lowered wages. This developing campus worker-student alliance on behalf of the lowest paid workers at the universities is also demanding free university education and ending the repression of student activists.

Here in NYC, CUNY faculty and staff have been without a contract for more than five years. The union is planning a strike authorization vote, though not for a few more months. Our leadership stresses that “we don’t want to strike” and emphasizes the penalties for striking under the Taylor Law. However, there are also penalties for not striking, namely having to accept concessionary contracts that have long lasting effects, including continuing the poverty wages of adjuncts, who teach more than half the classes at CUNY. When unions like the transit union (TWU) have struck in the past, they did so in order to avoid painful give-backs, knowing full well they would be hit with fines and the loss of dues check off. There are also 10,000 CUNY workers in DC 37 who have also been without contracts and salary increases for years. If both unions shut down all 23 campuses and organized thousands of students to demand no tuition hikes, more money for CUNY and no concessionary contracts, it would have a powerful galvanizing effect on the city, energizing workers and students to stand up and fight back, as they’ve courageously done in South Africa.

LA Bosses Attack Homeless Workers



LOS ANGELES, September 26—A multiracial group of 50 women and men marched up the Venice Beach Boardwalk for the second time in two months to demand justice for homeless workers Brendon Glenn and Jason Davis, killed by LAPD cops—and for one of the latest local victims, Jascent-Jamal Lee “Shakespeare” Warren, slain on August 30 by a Cadillac Hotel security guard.

Shakespeare was killed when he went to the aid of homeless friends being harassed by the hotel owner, Sris Sinnathamby, who used a racial epithet as he ordered guard Francisco Guzman to shoot Shakespeare. Charged with murder, Sinnathamby has been released on \$1 million bail. Guzman, a felon, ran away but was captured six days later. He is charged with murder, attempted murder (he shot another man in the leg), and firearms possession.

As Google and other tech firms transform Santa Monica, Venice, Marina del Rey and other Westside neighborhoods into “Silicon Beach,” they are accelerating these neighborhoods’ gentrification and pushing to rid the boardwalk of homeless workers. The racist Los Angeles City Council has declared a homeless state of emergency and pledged \$100 million to address the problem, with no known source for the fund-

ing or a plan to spend it. Of a previous \$100 million the city earmarked to combat homelessness, \$87 million went to “law enforcement.” Currently, there are police-escorted sanitation sweeps every Friday morning to run homeless workers off the beach, but no plans to provide housing or even bathroom facilities. As L.A. continues to plan for a 2024 Olympic bid, these crackdowns will only increase. L.A. bosses are eliminating homeless people, not homelessness.

One speaker at the rally raised the issue of racism and recent efforts to integrate police forces throughout the U.S. He concluded that having Black, Latin, and Asian cops, whether rank and file or top brass, does nothing to change the racist, brutal essence of the job. Capitalist bosses in every country use the police to terrorize the working class, he explained, as can be seen with the 43 disappeared students in Ayotzinapa, Mexico, and the striking miners murdered in the Marikana Massacre in South Africa. The cops in those countries are the same color as the workers they slaughter, but they’re on the opposite side of the class war.

We are meeting new faces and groups who are cosponsoring these protests. The two Unitarian Universalist church contingents were larger this time. PLP distributed CHALLENGE to marchers and passersby. We identified capitalism as the root cause of the problems of homelessness, racism, and police brutality, and communist revolution as the solution. We are inspired by reading in CHALLENGE about the ongoing protests PLP has helped build in New York City around the murders of Kyam Livingston, Shantel Davis, and others. We will be marching in Venice again on Sunday, October 25.☺

Stop Gun Violence with Revolution

continued from page 8

and Latin workers, and more incarcerated young men. Meanwhile, shootings are up and the CPD has made 25 percent more gun-related arrests this year over the same period last year.

Capitalism Needs Racism

No Chicago politicians are talking about the racist crisis in the public schools or racist mass unemployment. Their capitalist system requires racism, both to divide workers and to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and immigrant workers on the job. The high levels of poverty, unemployment and violence in the Black community neatly fit the rulers’ racist narrative. The ruling class says that these deaths prove that our lives don’t matter because “they’re killing each other.” But we know this is a racist lie!

Workers know that each death matters. They refuse to buy into the lie that the victims—including Reginald Sanson—are all gang-bangers. Reggie’s community knew differently. More than 200 people turned out for a vigil the day after his murder. Reggie could have contributed so much to society, but his life was cut short by the violence created by this racist, capitalist system.

Reforms Versus Revolution

While improved education and more jobs would make many individuals’ lives better, all reforms have limits under capitalism. They can never include everyone, and they last only until the bosses’ next economic crisis. To keep the working class in line, the capitalists need impoverished, unemployed workers as potential threats to the ones with jobs. Any reform that keeps the capitalist ruling class in power will continue to oppress us. The only solution to gun violence will come when we turn the guns around—when we smash the bosses with communist revolution! Join Progressive Labor Party and work toward a society where workers like Reggie can live long and productive lives.☺

DON'T VOTE, REVOLT!

Colombia: Bosses' Elections Tool For Resolving Disputes

COLOMBIA, October 18 — The capitalist class of Colombia has had a 205-year liberal-conservative dictatorship over the working class. The result is a deepening "dependency" on imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism, which robs Colombia of its natural resources. The monopolies are the ones who are really in charge. They decide and order who will govern us, and how they will govern us, with the approval of worldwide imperialism.

The working class can never take power through the ballot box. A few real life examples prove this: Nelson Mandela of South Africa who spent 27 years in prison; Lula Dasilva, a metal worker who governed Brazil for 8 years; Luís Eduardo Garzón, a union leader and ex-mayor of Bogotá and current minister of labor; Michelle Bachelet of Chile, who survived the fascist dictatorship of Pinochet; or most recently Gustavo Petro, ex-guerrilla of the M19 movement and current mayor of Bogotá. These leaders came from the working class but

are now instruments of the bosses to oppress workers and maintain capitalism. These examples only reinforce the concept of a bosses' dictatorship.

The capitalists need elections to convince workers of the fairy tale that says voting can force the profit system to respond to workers' needs. But that's not the only reason. They also help to find candidates who are successful at misleading and pacifying millions of workers. For the working class there will be no difference if the candidate is liberal, conservative, or leftist. It does not matter what political party is in power. We don't need the bosses nor do we need their electoral democracy in power; we say:

Don't vote, let's distribute CHALLENGE!

Don't vote, let's fight for workers' power!

Don't vote, let's make a revolution and build communism!✊

"Peace Plan" Hides Capitalist Intentions

COLOMBIA, October 20 — The long-yearned-for peace for the working class of Colombia has once again been made into a joke, as a result of capitalism and its contradictions, in which the working class has nothing to gain. It is a truly shameful joke, to the point that the people affected by the war, those who have suffered displacement and assassinations, are simply spectators in the process.

The only people who will receive landholdings as a result of the "restitution" will be the politicians who lead the opposition parties and those with influence and privilege. And of course the other beneficiaries: the multinational corporations in mining, oil, and other industries who will be able to invest in Colombia at the expense of the exploitation of the working class, with pitiful wages and terrible working conditions. One example is the case of the Alabama-based Drummond mining company which paid paramilitaries to torture and murder union leaders in 2001.

Now they suppress any protests or workers' struggles, murdering

workers and union leaders. There is widespread rape of female wage workers and agricultural workers by the armies (both official and private), which shows the racist and sexist character of the exploitation. European, American, and Asian capitalism all want a piece of the pie, so they offer generous donations supposedly to guarantee and end to the conflict, but we revolutionaries understand that these capitalists are only buying their right to exploit the working class of Colombia.

World capitalism is in crisis. The apparent sympathy shown by legislation in favor of undocumented workers in the USA or the abolition of visas in Europe are only strategies to prop up the falling rate of profit. As revolutionaries, we are aware of these situations and we avoid siding with any capitalist gang. We redouble our efforts to organize and fight based on our revolutionary program, winning a communist base for the not-to-distant future, when we will put an end to capitalism and its imperialist war with the dictatorship of the proletariat.✊

Turkey: Strikers Fight State Terror

ANKARA, October 10 — "Workers will revenge the murderers!" Autoworkers declared from their factory in Izmir. Students and workers across Turkey have called for a two-day general strike and boycott to protest the bombing deaths of over 100 workers and students at an anti-war rally in Ankara on October 10, 2015. The protestors are denouncing the government for the murders of the protestors. Students and faculty shut down major universities, both public and private. The streets of almost all cities are filled with marches and protests.

On the day of the attack, thousands came to Ankara from throughout Turkey in response to a call to "Stand Up to War; Demand Peace Now!" The rally was called by a variety of unions, including, the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK), the Confederation of Public Sector Workers (KESK), the national Chamber of Architects and Engineers, and the Medical Association.

As people assembled, two bombs went off, killing over 100 people of all ages. Those killed included teachers, students, nurses, lawyers, construction workers, and at least fourteen railroad workers, members of the United Transportation Workers (BTS), who had come to protest with their children.

The slaughtered include students in the liberal Kurdish People's Democratic Party (the acronym in Turkish is HDP), and Kurdish workers. Racism in Turkey has meant that many low-wage construction jobs go to the Kurdish men. This rally was a multi-ethnic gathering of workers and students from around Turkey protesting President Erdogan's decision to join with the U.S. imperialist's attack on Syria's workers and to return to war against the Kurdish regions of Turkey itself.

Workers Reject Imperialist Blame Game

After the blasts, Ankara police attacked protestors with clubs and tear gas. Ambulances could not initially get through, leading many more to die. The government laid blame on the protestors themselves and on the small capitalist-terrorist Islamic State (ISIS). But most of the working class in Turkey this insult to injury and instead expose the long history of violent attacks by the Turkish government against protestors. They realize both ISIS and the Turkish government operate to terrorize the working class.

In addition, the U.S. press repeatedly misrepresents the Ankara protest and those who were killed. This is just part of the traditional racist effort to divide and conquer. The New York Times described the rally as a rally of Kurdish people, and has only interviewed the leaders of the HDP. The HDP has significant political clout, and garnered enough votes in the last election to prevent president Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP in Turkish) party from achieving a majority in parliament.

Turkey is an important NATO member for the U.S. imperialists. According to Chuck Hagel, the

past U.S. Secretary of "Defense" (read: war), Turkey, like Israel (see page 3) is one of the Middle East's military counterweights to Russia and China in the coming age of global war. The mass demonstrations across Turkey today show how workers have no stake in either side of any imperialist rivalry!

Strike Builds Workers' Unity vs. Imperialism

Municipal workers in Kadiköy (the Asian section of Istanbul) have joined the strike. Doctors and hospital workers are protesting, with a large group rallying outside an Istanbul hospital and then walking in the funeral procession for a worker killed in the Ankara terrorist attack. Lawyers vowed not to appear in court during the general strike. In Izmir, lawyers protested in front of a courthouse with a banner calling on all to prevent fascism from passing through the doors; lawyers staged a sit-in at Istanbul's Çağlayan courthouse, the largest courthouse in Europe.

Others are protesting in their factories, including those in other auto parts plants; in an Istanbul factory making cooling units for buses and trucks; in an Epla refrigerator factory in the Corlu European Free Trade Zone; in a machine parts plant in Mersin; and at Istanbul's airport.

Working Class Revenge Means Building PLP

As the general strike ends, workers and students will need to decide what to do next. The anti-Erdogan politicians call on workers to seek justice by voting against Erdogan in the upcoming November 1 election. Many protesters call for "peace." But the autoworkers in Izmir have a better idea. They said, only the working class could revenge the murders of our brothers and sisters. Capitalism can never be peaceful because it's an inherently violent system.

The working class worldwide is suffering from the death and destruction brought by capitalism in its imperialist stage. Inter-imperialist rivalries are behind the aerial bombings of Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. These same rivalries fuel terrorist attacks such as that in Ankara. We will end these attacks by smashing the capitalism with communist revolution. PLP will replace the dictatorship of the international capitalists—whether Turkish, U.S., Russian, or Chinese—with the dictatorship of a united international working class, and we invite our working class sisters and brothers fighting in Turkey to join us!✊



LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Reggie—Killed by Capitalism



This letter is in memory of Reginald Sanson by his aunt, Sonya Sanson (see article on page 8).

On August 25, 2015, Reginald Sanson was shot and killed at 6 PM at 5000 S. Dorchester, a block from President Obama's home.

The following evening, over 200 family, friends, and residents gathered outside Shoesmith elementary school to remember him. They held candles and celebrated his 25 years of life and showed all the compassion people had for him. Reggie spent a large portion of his life within a few blocks radius of the location of his death. A victim of street violence, he was loved and will be always be close to our hearts and treasured for life. Chicago Police Department, University of Chicago police, politician Jesse Jackson and Councilman Will Burns have blood on their hands. We still charge them with genocide. Another young Black male life gone—it has no meaning to them but it does to me. My nephew was a good young man, he was there for me when I was diagnosed with cancer. He took me back and forth for my chemo treatments and doctor's appointment. Reggie was like my son. His heart and soul was so big. May he know and rest in peace. He is with his two grandmothers, Dorothy and Ms. Burkett, and his best friend Ismail. Love you forever.

Reggie was born on September 21, 1989 to Theresa Burkett and Reginald Sanson Sr. in Chicago. He loved being around many family and friends. Reginald attended Shoesmith and Canter Elementary Schools where he graduated and made some of his fondest memories. He went to Kenwood Academy and earned straight As and Bs. He later graduated from Hyde Park Academy with the same academic success. His godfather Warren McKeithin Sr. awarded him with a car for his excellence in academic achievements.

He fell in love with all sports and it became a way of life for him. He played baseball but his favorite was basketball. He later took an interest in football. He brought home Most Valuable Player titles and all kinds of rewards and trophies for his skills and sportsmanship. After high school, Reggie went on to attend Coyne College, majoring in heating and cooling, and acquired numerous skills that made him the helpful, loving, and caring man that he was.

Reggie was loved by all. He was the peacemaker on the blocks and a helping hand to those in need. He was known as a gatekeeper at Oakwood Cemetery where his visits were frequent to Ismail Robinson, his late best friend. Above all, he was most proud of his family. From his union with Shanetha Harris, a beautiful baby girl Mercedes Sanson was born. He loved his girls; he would do anything for either one of them. His routine of picking Mercedes up from school and dropping her off was something he looked forward to everyday. Just the overall quality of time Reggie spent with them will have an everlasting effect on Shanetha and Mercedes' life. Reggie formed impenetrable ties with family, friends, and community.

Reggie's full potential in life would have amounted to great things in life. Because his young life was shortened, we as a society will never know his true full life potential and big contributions to society. He would have extended and given back to make this world a better place.

★★★★★

Police Terror Is Rule, Not Exception

Some members of our Progressive Labor Party club

attended a large event sponsored by a mass organization we're in. The last part of the event was a vigil for Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Shantel Davis, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland and the countless others who have been murdered by racist police. We want to expose some serious errors about racism and the police that surfaced at the event so that we can share this letter with our friends in the organization.

First, there was a video about a "good cop." Then we heard speakers say the police are "professionals" like any other workers and that problems are caused by individual "bad" cop. Wrong! The primary role of the police under capitalism is to protect the power and private property of the ruling class: the bosses, bankers, landlords and their lackeys.

The history of the police in the United States is steeped in racism. It began in the 18th century with the slave patrols, recruited from state militias to capture and torture rebelling and escaping slaves. As an instrument of state terror, racist cops have played the same role for more than 300 years. Throughout U.S. history, the police have attacked the working class, and in particular workers on strike who fought back against exploitation and oppression. Civil rights activists who attempted to unify Black and white workers were targeted by both the Klan in white and the Klan in blue. Racism and brutality by the police are the rule, not the exception.

The fight against racism must be at the forefront of the fight against police brutality and murder. The working class, led by communists, must not fall into the divisiveness of identity politics and its separation of Black, white, Latin, Asian, and woman workers. A united working class is the only force capable of destroying the racist, brutal capitalist system. Under communism, the working class will fight to eliminate racism and truly unite the working class to create an egalitarian system that can meet the needs of all workers around the world.

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Red Politics at Black Lung Clinic

I was born and raised in the coalfields. My grandfather, an immigrant, was a miner and a militant union man. He worked tirelessly, unpaid, to organize other miners. When I saw a story on the local news about a black lung clinic the county seat of Coal County, I just knew that, as a communist, I had to attend. While I'm not a healthcare worker, I know it is extremely deadly to breathe in coal dust over a long period. Once the condition develops, it steadily worsens, until breathing becomes next to impossible.

A good number of retired miners, men and women, came to the clinic. Healthcare workers took their blood pressure, gave breathing tests and explained the disease. One retired miner, who we'll call Stan, openly blamed the company for his disease and for the unsafe working conditions where he worked. He said he didn't think conditions have changed much for those younger miners still able to find work in a mine.

Most of the mines in this region have already closed, devastating living conditions for workers in the area. Many younger workers have left town, most to areas that might have more opportunities.

Another miner, who we'll call Bill, said that while it was better to have a union, the union didn't do enough to stand up to the company and guarantee safe working conditions. One result is black lung.

For the 2016 presidential election, he thought Bernie Sanders was the best candidate for us. I pointed out that Sanders, like all the candidates, was in bed with the bosses and would do nothing to fundamentally change conditions for the better. I said it was up to the workers ourselves to do this. He seemed to agree.

While the point of this clinic was to deal with the horrible black lung disease, it was inspiring to converse with these miners. Of course, in a communist society the focus will be on eliminating job-related injuries and diseases along with all profits. There will be no excuses made for job-related diseases. All workers can begin to fight for this communist society by joining PLP.

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Deadly Pitfall of 'Progressives'

In Germany during the 1880s, conservative Chancellor Otto von Bismarck was terrified of the appeal of communist ideas to the working class.

In response, he instituted a rudimentary form of So-

cial Security, designed to ease the working-class concerns over aging, accidents and medical emergencies.

In the midst of the Great Depression, in an effort to undercut the influence of a mass communist movement, U.S. president and millionaire Franklin D. Roosevelt enacted Social Security, unemployment compensation, the eight-hour workday, and other social welfare programs. But over recent decades, we've seen the gradual dismantling of these New Deal programs.

It's important to note that when national capitalist leaders submit to some of the demands of the left, they are not cooperating or giving in. In fact, this is one way the bosses fight back. The capitalists need to pacify workers—and prevent them from embracing communism—to maintain the bosses' system of profits, oppression and exploitation. Also, it's important to remember that those in power want workers to view any gains as paternalistic gifts from the ruling class.

Of course, a gift can be taken back at any time.

Reform candidates like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren give communists in Progressive Labor Party the opportunity to discuss this history and point out the pitfalls of supporting so-called "progressive" Democrats. Even if they were to triumph in an election, any reforms these candidates might institute would be insufficient and short-lived. Long-term change can come about only through a fundamental change in the economic system: through communism.

★★★★★

Syria Misconception

There are several common misconceptions in the letter "Syria: Imperialists On All Sides" published in the October 14 CHALLENGE. The letter appears to rely on reports taken straight from the New York Times and other US imperialist-centered news sources.

The first sentence criticizes CHALLENGE for correctly stating that it is unclear who is doing the terrible damage to the working class in Syria. While the butcher Bashar al-Assad's regime drops lethal barrel bombs, they are usually answered with the rebel's own "hellfire," propane tanks filled with shrapnel and fired from artillery indiscriminately into regime-controlled areas. Even when the mostly fascist rebels aren't launching hellfire canisters, they are firing mortars and whatever artillery they can get their hands on, not to mention their rash of suicide bombings.

Virtually all of the non-Kurdish rebel groups aren't just Islamist, but are now allied with al Qaeda. During the regime offensive in early October, in retaking a village, the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) encountered a number of corpses tied up and executed. Such massacres are common among what's left of the Free Syrian Army (FSA), Jabhat al Nusra (JAN), Ansar al Sham (AAS), and other rebel groupings. JAN said openly that they wanted to cleanse the Alawites from Syria. In addition, a vast number of working-class soldiers were ruthlessly executed in areas taken by JAN and ISIS.

We don't know who is responsible for all of this mass murder. But we are not going to parrot the U.S. imperialist butchers' line that it is solely the crime of their rival butcher, Assad. It is more complex than that.

CHALLENGE correctly pointed out the role of George Soros and the Open Society Foundation in opportunistically seizing the initiative in the Arab Spring. A major reason the U.S. wanted to topple Syria's regime was because of the lucrative Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) pipeline deals that Assad spurned.

The letter goes on further to say that "the US is supporting Assad"! It follows up this claim by saying that the CIA has trained fewer than a half dozen rebel fighters. Both of these claims are incorrect. The U.S. has been attempting to overthrow Assad since he spurned their GCC allies. The CIA has trained an unknown number of fighters that may be in the thousands.

In response to Russia's recent escalation, Obama is ready to go all in on it and arm these rebel forces to the teeth.

For the working class in Syria, there is no lesser evil. The war has become a naked imperialist proxy war of fascists versus fascists over the gas and oil riches in the Middle East. Though there was a valid reason for the working class in Syria to rise up against Assad and his despotic regime, that is not the whole narrative. We must rely on a dialectical analysis, based on the balance of forces that are trying to geopolitically shape the Middle East.

★★★★★

New Jersey Students, Teachers in Class Struggle

Newark, NJ, October 20 — A new school year brings new lessons for those involved in the class struggle around education. The first lesson is that the bosses are increasing their attacks on students and teachers. On top of shutting down schools, laying off more aides and support staff, forcibly transferring teachers, and keeping students from attending their neighborhood schools, the latest round of attacks are the budget cuts imposed on schools in the beginning of this school year. Principals were told to plan on spending only about 25 percent of their budget from June, which was already the result of another round of cuts. Former Superintendent Cami Anderson helped create the crisis by taking a \$40 million surplus and turning it into a \$70 million deficit.

As a result, class sizes have increased, special needs students are neglected, and older, decrepit buildings are becoming more dangerous for students and teachers.

Which brings us to the second, and more important lesson. Having the correct political line in these struggles will strengthen the working class, while an incorrect line can set us back. How could we be in this terrible position after students, parents, and teachers put up a courageous fight against the proposed reforms by then Superintendent Anderson? Mainly because of the popular line of the movement: Get rid of Anderson and get local control of the schools.

There is no question that Anderson, and state control of the schools, is a problem. But without a bigger picture of how capitalist schools against the interests of working-class students, the ruling class is able to pacify workers. Regardless of who runs them, schools do not exist to give workers' children a real education. In reality, the bosses set up students to drop out because they need a reserve of unskilled workers to maintain unemployment and keep wages low.

More specifically, the bosses underfund and under-resource Black and Latin schools. It should be no surprise that these budget cuts are especially intense in Newark, a city where 85 percent of residents are Black or Latin and where one-third of the population lives in poverty. Under capitalism, schools are just another tool for the bosses to maintain racism and keep

their profit system running.

Replace One Foe With Another

Cami Anderson was just a figurehead fulfilling the capitalist bosses' needs. At the end of the last school year, to pacify angry parents, teachers, and students, Governor Chris Christie fired Anderson and replaced her with Christopher Cerf, the one who hired Anderson in the first place and supported her anti-student reforms. Even so, the fightback against budget cuts died down. With the exception of one rally calling for local control, the streets were empty. There were no rallies from the Newark Students Union, the Newark Teachers Union, or any community groups. In fact, the teachers' union sent out an email shortly after the cuts that their meeting with Cerf was "positive" and "productive." This shows how unions, the politicians, and bosses work together to attack the working class.

Despite the lack of fightback, there are still students and teachers looking to organize against these budget cuts. PLP'ers distributed CHALLENGE and held study groups to win workers to the outlook that it doesn't matter who runs the schools and to see the need to organize for communism. One teacher said, "We need to reach out to parents about what is happening." Groups of teachers put out a flyer distribute at Back to School Night. Parents who came to hear about their children's classes were informed about the latest attacks. Many have promised to attend the first PTA meeting.

Students are getting more politicized by sharply worsening conditions. As a result of cafeteria workers being fired, students are now leaving lunch 15 minutes late because they couldn't get their food in the 40-minute lunch period.

In short, many are beginning to see that things have not gotten better, and that relying on politicians or the union leadership will not get them anywhere.

PL members are holding student study groups and actions to increase the level of class struggle that temporarily died down. With our political ideas and our experience with our co-workers and students, we hope to increase our base and membership so that these lessons become clearer to the millions affected in Newark and beyond.✪

Chicago Health

Continued from page 8

remain the world's top imperialists limits their investments in domestic matters like healthcare, education, and infrastructure; 2) vicious U.S. racism, with its foundation in the enslavement of Black people and the genocide of indigenous people, enables the bosses to keep the working class oppressed and divided—for now.

After a recent inspection at Stroger Hospital, the Joint Commission found a number of deficiencies, especially in documentation and equipment. Now people are wondering if the administration's ultimate goal of closing and privatizing the facility may be at hand.

The trend to cut everything in the public sector—schools, hospitals, housing—is part of the capitalist ruler's strategy to conserve and centralize resources for the next big imperialist war.

The movement against budget cuts must be built and communists must be in the thick of it. But we will not be able to stop the imperialists from destroying millions of lives in the next war. What we can try to do is strengthen our ability to fight and develop ties with others who fight with us. Our only real victory is recruiting fellow fighters to PLP to help build a new world.

Communism will eliminate the primary source of chronic illness, the stress brought on by racism, sexism and oppressive conditions of work and life. The tension of life under capitalism increases the risk of all common chronic diseases, from high blood pressure to cancer. Under communism, the standard of health literacy and healthcare will be raised for everyone. Building a society based on cooperation and sharing instead of competition and exploitation would reduce the need for many medical treatments. But when these treatments are needed, people would get them for free, at a uniform high standard. Fighting for that new world is the only real treatment for the disease of capitalism.✪



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Bernie Sanders: liberal capitalist

NYT, 10/20, by Josh Barro — ...Mr. Sanders is....a capitalist....

...Mr. Sanders does not want to nationalize the steel mills, the auto companies or even the banks. Like Mrs. Clinton, he believes in....capitalist institutions....

"It's not socialism, it's social democracy..." said...an economic policy expert at...the Roosevelt Institute.... [it] "implies a very active role for capitalism in the framework...."

...You might be a social democrat if you support...a combination of private enterprise and government spending...a Keynesian economic policy of government borrowing and spending....Most Democrats would say they support those things. So would quite a few Republicans....

When [Lane] Kenworthy, the...professor [at the Univ. of California at San Diego] proposed the "democratic socialist capitalist" label, I asked how that's different from a being a very liberal Democrat.

"I don't think there is a difference," he said....I hope Mr. Sanders is not too offended if I simply describe him as "very liberal."

Genocide of Indigenous: No let-up

NYT, 10/13 — In August 2010, John Williams, a homeless woodcarver of the Nuuchah-nulth tribe...selling his work near the Pike Place market in Seattle, was shot four times by a police officer within seconds

of failing to drop the knife and piece of cedar he was carrying....He died; the folding knife was found closed on the ground....

In November 2014...in Oklahoma, Christina Tahhahwah of the Comanche tribe died...while in police custody. Fellow inmates claim that jail guards shocked her with a Taser for refusing to stop singing Comanche hymns....

...American Indians are more likely than any other racial group to be killed by the police, according to the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice....

...Indians suffer from an infant mortality rate 60 percent higher than that of Caucasians....

At the root...is economic inequality: Indians are the poorest people in the United States, with a poverty rate...about twice the national average...almost one in three Indians lives in poverty....

... [The] Declaration of Independence refers to them as "merciless Indian savages" and whose history as the victims of mass killings has taken a staggering social toll:...the people who lived here for many thousands of years before this country was founded....

Blood money: give or go to jail

NYT, 10/20 — Marion, Alabama — Judge Marvin Wiggins's courtroom was packed...[with] hundreds of offenders who owed fines or fees....

"Good morning..." began Judge Wiggins...."For your consideration, there's a blood drive outside....If you don't have any money, go out there and give blood and bring in a receipt indicating you gave blood." For those who had no money or did not want to give blood, the judge concluded: "The sheriff has enough handcuffs."

Efforts...to generate revenue by imposing fines for minor offenses, particularly from poor and working-class people, have attracted widespread...condemnation...."

...Said...a professor...at NYU Langone Medical Center,..."You're basically sentencing someone to an invasive procedure that doesn't benefit them and isn't protecting public health."

...One older man pass[ed] out after his blood was taken....

...Many of those whose payments are sought...have been found...to be indigent, yet their financial situations...are not considered....

[Traci] Green, 43, who owes thousands of dollars...said he had offered to pay as much as he could but had been led to believe that he had to give blood anyway.

"He told us we had to...give some blood or we go to jail...."

...Fears about the spread of hepatitis...does require that [this] blood be labeled "paid," and hospitals generally refuse such blood for transfusions.

{Carl} Crocker, 41, grew even more uncomfortable...after he recognized the blood bank, LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, which had recently lost a \$4 million judgment for an HIV-tainted blood transfusion.

"It's just wrong for them to utilize people who are in the court system and essentially extort blood out of you because you owe traffic tickets, misdemeanors,...or whatever you're there for," Mr. Crocker said.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

CHICAGO HEALTHCARE WORKERS BLAST RACIST CUTS

CHICAGO, October 21— Workers at Cook County's Stroger Hospital are continuing their uphill fight to save pediatric services. Closing these hospitals is racist, sexist murder. Working together within this hospital struggle, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and friends are also raising the potential for a new communist world.

The mostly Black and Latino workers we're rallying have historically been the mass base for PLP. The response of most of them is the same: "What? Close Pediatrics at the County? They can't do that!" Doctors, nurses and public health professionals have taken to the streets with flyers and petitions. Many who read our leaflets volunteer to help, invite us to speak at their churches or take extra literature. Despite the stream of phone calls into the office of the killer politician responsible, County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, we get only hollow promises. The racist Preckwinkle has done nothing to restrain the administration as it moves ahead inexorably to grind down the department that cares for Chicago's working-class Black and immigrant kids. Why should she? She serves the bosses, not working-class children.

Public hospitals in most cities have been closed or privatized, as the capitalist bosses lie about "better quality" and "more efficient" healthcare. In reality, this is a racist attack on workers! These changes are driven by profit, not health. As full-service hospitals shut down and are replaced by scattered urgent care centers, families must travel outside their neighborhoods to find more than basic care. Specialized teaching and children's hospitals are not found in working-class neighborhoods. Using them forces families, especially

low-income or single-parent families, to make wrenching decisions: Stay with my sick child in the hospital or keep my job? Pay for transportation or pay for food? Moreover, children treated at the big teaching hospitals are less likely to get adequate follow-up care if they're families are insured by Medicaid.

Care Under Communism

How would medical care for children look under communism? One hint comes from examining medicine in China in the 1950s and 1960s under socialism, at the time seen as a half-way house to communism. Workers there developed a system that valued health and safety. The revolution raised the life standards of the masses. A million peasants and youth, known as barefoot doctors, were trained to provide healthcare in rural areas. Over a span of ten years, workers doubled the life expectancy in rural China and cut the infant mortality rate in half; diseases like syphilis were eliminated. Millions of workers were saved from premature and avoidable deaths from poverty, malnutrition and a lack of healthcare. This advance was possible only under a worker-run

society.

Today, with the Chinese revolution reversed and market capitalism restored, workers in China—like those in Chicago—once again suffer under disastrous health conditions. That is why PLP fights directly for a communist revolution, with power resting in the masses of workers worldwide through Party leadership.

Capitalist Healthcare Makes Workers Sick

According to a report published by the Commonwealth Fund, the U.S. ranks lowest in healthcare compared to other large capitalist countries. There are two reasons: 1) the U.S. bosses' aim to

Continued on page 7

TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE, SHOOT DOWN CAPITALISM

CHICAGO, October 22—When Reginald Sanson was shot dead on August 25 at age 25, he became one of 2,465 shooting victims in Chicago and one of 370 killed in this carnage this year as of September 28 (Chicago Tribune, 9/28/15). The capitalist bosses' media constantly cries out against gun violence, whether it be a mass shooting by a single maniac or the daily trauma of an individual lost. But they rarely tell us much about the victims, especially Black or Latin victims. These are the same bosses who back their killer cops with military-grade hardware, and who are actively planning to kill millions of workers in the next imperialist war. Their hypocrisy knows no bounds!

Reggie was murdered on the 5000 block of South Dorchester Avenue, two blocks from Barack Obama's home in Hyde Park and one block from Kenwood Academy, where Reggie earned top grades and excelled in baseball and basketball. He was a positive force and a pillar of strength, always willing to help others. His death was a shock for his community—a neighborhood that borders the wealthy University of Chicago and has borne many other tragedies.

The capitalist ruling class has no solutions to offer us. As the liberal bosses urge stricter gun laws, the right-wing bosses call for more arrests and harsher jail sentences. Both Democrats and Republicans want more cops, the leading source of racist violence against Black and Latin workers! Any new policy will only hurt the working class even more. Never do the bosses' politicians address the real cause of worker-on-worker violence: capitalism.

Capitalism and Despair

Substandard schools and the lack of decent jobs create a culture of hopelessness. When workers cannot provide for their families, they are vulnerable to individualism, desperation, drugs and violence. Chicago has the highest official Black unemployment rate—25 percent—of the five largest U.S. cities (2013 U.S. Census). This compares to a Latin unemployment rate of 14 percent and a white jobless rate of 7 percent. Unsurprisingly, Chicago is also one of the most segregated cities; nearly 75 percent of Black Chicagoans live in a neighborhood that is at least 90 percent black.

Over the past few decades, Chicago's working class was dealt blow after blow as thousands of manufacturing jobs left the city. Five thousand city workers have been laid off since 2009, 40 percent of them residents in

predominantly Black ZIP codes. With 50 school closings last year alone, 1,691 school workers have been laid off over the same period. As the Center for Law and Social Policy has documented, people who live in areas with concentrated poverty are more likely to experience violence and to be victims of violence (<http://mic.com/articles/126199>).

All of these jobs were lost under two Democratic mayors, Richard M. Daley and Obama's former chief of staff, Rahm Emmanuel. What will liberal Emmanuel do about gun violence? He plans to hire more police administrative staff, to free up 300 more mad-dog cops to put on the streets. Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy wants tougher penalties for gun possession. Both of these "solutions" will lead to more police interactions, harassment, and violence against Black

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